

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 15~~21~~ without prejudice. Please amend claims 1 and 4-7 as follows:

*A1*

1. (AMENDED) A photometric measurement flow cell comprising:

a cell body having a first end and a second end;

a fluidic channel allowing the passage of fluids, contain within said cell body;

an element holder contained within said first end of said cell body wherein said element holder has a substantially planar sealing surface for receiving an element;

a stepped element having a stem and a base, said stem having an end surface and said base having a substantially planar sealing surface;

said stepped element contained within said element holder and sealed within said cell body by a sealing gasket positioned between said substantially planar sealing surface of said stepped element and said substantially planar sealing surface of said cell body whereupon pressure exerted against said substantially planar sealing surface of said stepped element and said substantially planar sealing surface of said cell body cause said stepped element to be reliably sealed within said cell body with said stem protruding into said fluidic channel creating a measurement path-length.

*rel C1*

*A2*

4. (AMENDED) The photometric measurement flow cell according to claim 1, wherein said stepped element is formed of crown optical glass.

*rel C1*

5. (AMENDED) The photometric measurement flow cell according to claim 1, wherein said stepped element is formed of flint optical glass